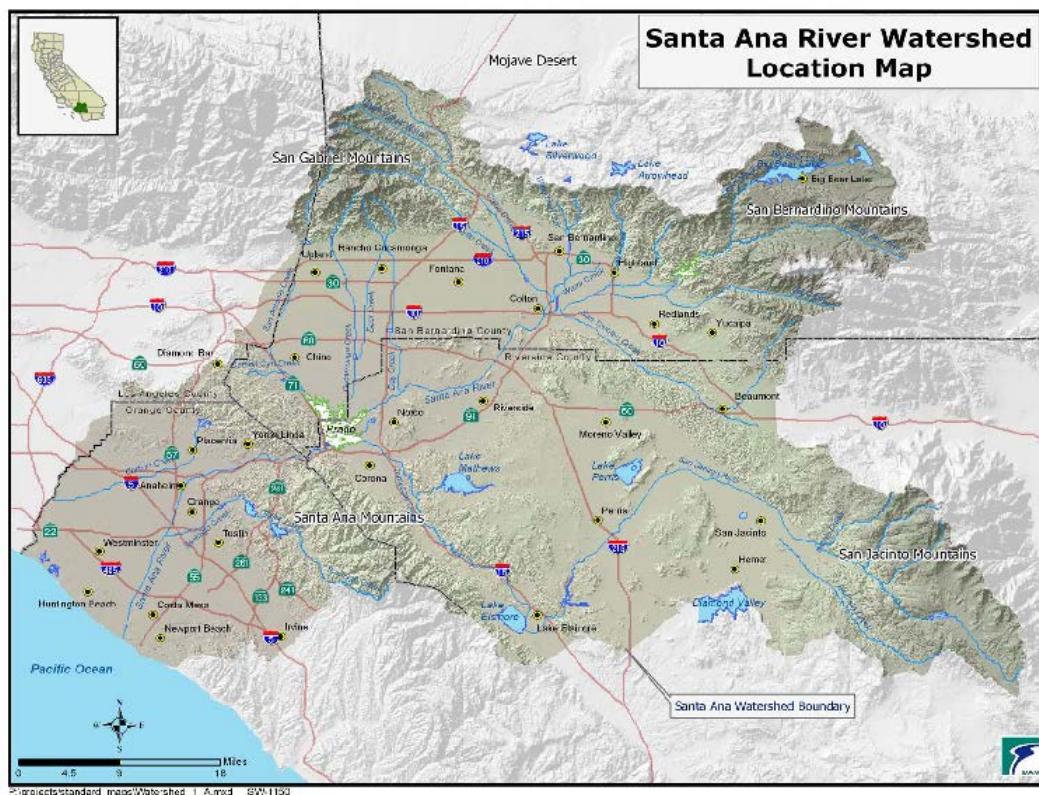


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Overview of Disadvantaged Communities and Native American Tribes in the Santa Ana River Watershed

Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study, California Lower Colorado Region



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation**



**Santa Ana Water
Project Authority**



**Kennedy
Communications**

August 2013

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Overview of Disadvantaged Communities and Native American Tribes within the Santa Ana River Watershed

**Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study, California
Lower Colorado Region**

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Acronyms

CDP	Census Designated Place
CDPH	California Department of Public Health
DAC	Disadvantaged Community
DWP	Corona Department of Water and Power
DWSRF	California Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
MHI	Median Household Income
OWOW	One Water One Watershed Plan
OWOW 2.0	One Water One Watershed Plan Update
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SARW	Santa Ana River Watershed
SARWQCB	Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAWPA	Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
Tribe	Native American Tribe
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load

Executive Summary

This report provides a brief description of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and Native American Indian Tribes (Tribes) located in or near the Santa Ana River Watershed (SARW), and a summary of water and related resource opportunities and challenges facing these entities. The information was gathered from several sources including personal interviews, web research, documentation review, and publically available information. This report addresses DACs and Tribes separately, as they each have very different and distinctive demographics and economic bases. This document is not meant to be an exhaustive analysis of their unique factors, but rather an introduction and, in some cases, an overview of these populations and their unique water resources requirements.

There are legitimate water quality issues that impact low income and Tribal communities throughout the SARW, but some perceptions of unsafe water where water supplies are clearly safe for public consumption identify another problem. The solution to these issues is to ensure that all communities have the information, financial and technical resources, and administrative and regulatory policies they need to make informed decisions that can result in benefits to all members of communities within the Watershed.

One of the key provisions found through this research that could assist DACs is the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments and the 2006 Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program. Through the DWSRF, states can provide below-market interest rate loans to publicly and privately owned community water systems and nonprofit non-community water systems for necessary infrastructure improvements. States may also establish separate eligibility criteria and special funding options for economically disadvantaged communities through this program.

Section 1452 of the SDWA defines a disadvantaged community as “the service area of a public water system that meets affordability criteria established after public review and comment by the State in which the public water system is located.” Under this section, states may provide additional subsidies (including forgiveness of principal) to communities that meet the established criteria, or that are expected to meet these criteria as a result of a proposed project.

Though no special provision was found related to Tribes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supports “Tribal Assumption of Federal Environmental Laws” under federal statutes, stating, among other things, that “[t]he Agency will recognize tribal governments as the primary parties for setting standards, making environmental policy decisions, and managing programs for reservations,

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consistent with Agency standards and regulations.” Three Federal environmental statutes - the SDWA, the Clean Water Act, and the Clean Air Act - explicitly authorize EPA to “treat tribes in the same manner as states” for purposes of implementing various EPA environmental programs that may be of benefit to these communities.

Introduction

Background

One Water One Watershed 2.0 (OWOW 2.0) is an Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan developed by the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) and its key stakeholders. OWOW 2.0 is updating the original OWOW plan which was adopted by the SAWPA Commission in 2009. OWOW 2.0 evaluates current water supply and demand projections, and addresses projected climate change impacts with recommended adaptation strategies. One of the key purposes of the Bureau of Reclamation's Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study (Study) is to support SAWPA by providing technical expertise, data analysis, and research results to help attain OWOW 2.0 goals. This report captures information related to DACs and Tribes that may help develop and implement programs and projects that can provide water resource management benefits to these communities.

DACs and Native American Tribes

This report addresses DACs and Tribes separately. The water and related resources opportunities and challenges for these entities vary widely based on their locations and community compositions. This diversity is captured in compilation tables in Table 2 (for DACs), and Table 3 (for Tribes).

The Conclusion of this report summarizes this information to offer SAWPA water resources planners a means to examine future opportunities, and follow-up on considerations as they update OWOW 2.0 and provide recommendations to engage DACs and Tribes in proposed Proposition 84 projects. (Proposition 84 – the 2006 Safe Drinking Water Bond Act – authorized more than \$5 billion in bonds to fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, waterway and natural resource protection, and more.)

Disadvantaged Communities

Definition

The California Department of Water Resources defines a DAC as “a community with a median household income less than 80% of the state-wide average.”

During the initial OWOW planning process, DAC outreach was conducted in strategic areas throughout the watershed, including the following communities: Lake Elsinore and Pedley in Riverside County, Rialto and Colton in San Bernardino County, and Santa Ana in Orange County. OWOW 2.0 DAC outreach expanded on that initial effort and also classified DACs into regions. Each region has distinct characteristics and roughly follows the Santa Ana River as it flows from its headwaters in the San Bernardino Mountains to the outfall/estuary at Huntington Beach, a journey of 96 miles. These regions are not “officially” recognized, but they serve as a tool in guiding future DAC/Tribal outreach.

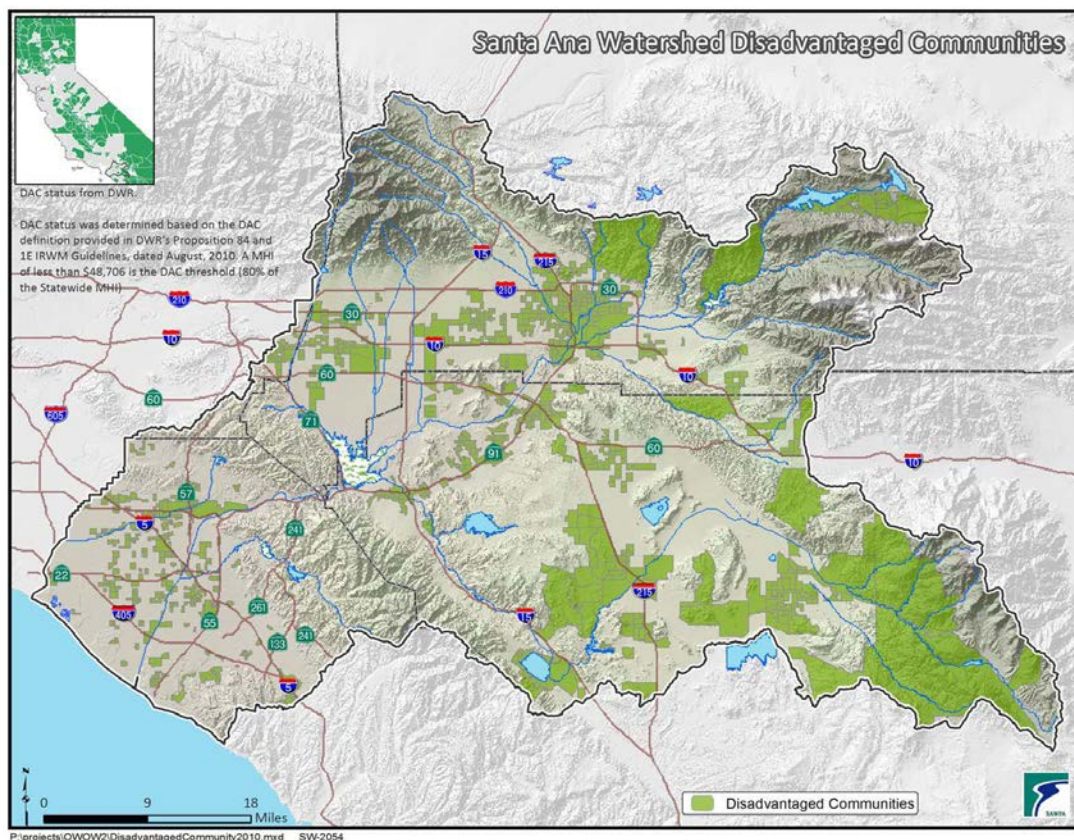


Figure 1: Santa Ana Watershed Disadvantaged Communities

Table 1: DACs Reviewed During OWOW 2.0

The communities in the table below indicate places where site visits were conducted. Not all visited communities met DAC definition criteria; visits were made in order to gain a better understanding of adjoining DAC areas.

Community	Region	Issue	Solution
Beaumont	San Geronio Pass	Septic failures	Applying for DWSRF funding
Cherry Valley	San Geronio Pass	Septic failures	
Colton/Rialto	San Bernardino Valley	Perchlorate	Cleanup in process
Edgemont	Perris Valley	Contaminated wells	
Gavilan Hills	Perris Valley	Septic failures	
Home Gardens	Perris Valley	Contaminated well	Applying for Prop. 84 Round 2 funding
Lakeland Village	Perris Valley	Septic failures	
Pomona	Chino Valley	Needs more local water supply	Increase partnerships
San Jacinto	Perris Valley	Flooding potential	
Santa Ana	Orange County	Water quality	
Sedco Hills	Perris Valley	Septic failures	Pursue CDPH funding
Westminster/Garden Grove/Fountain Valley	Orange County		

Methodology for Assessing the DACs

The Santa Ana Watershed covers approximately 2,650 square miles and is home to 5.4 million residents. Approximately 69 percent of the cities/communities within the watershed are considered disadvantaged or contain disadvantaged communities. In terms of population, approximately 26 percent (1.4 million residents) of the total watershed population is considered disadvantaged.

As noted above, the Watershed was separated into four sub-regions for investigation. To assist in identifying DACs in each sub-region, meetings were held with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (SARWQCB). Once a DAC was identified, meetings were held with local public agencies to gain detailed knowledge about the unique characteristics of each region. Meetings were also held with the residents of these communities to help gain an understanding of their water quality and supply concerns.

Table 2: Santa Ana Watershed DACs Identified by Regions

Note: This list is a compilation of three regional areas of concern identified in the SARW and provided by SARWQCB. This list is by no means comprehensive and site visits were not conducted in all listed communities.

<i>San Bernardino County</i>			
Community	Region	Issue	Solution
Big Bear Lake/Big Bear City	San Gorgonio Pass		
Calimesa	San Gorgonio Pass	Septic tank prohibition	
City of San Bernardino	San Bernardino	Water Supply Water Quality	
Dunlap Acres	San Gorgonio Pass	Septic tank prohibition	Installed sewer
Forest Falls	San Gorgonio Pass		
Lytle Creek	San Gorgonio Pass		
Mill Creek	San Gorgonio Pass		
Mountain Home	San Gorgonio Pass		
Rialto/Colton	San Bernardino	Perchlorate	Cleanup in progress
Yucaipa	San Gorgonio Pass	Septic tank prohibition	Installed sewer
<i>Riverside County</i>			
Community	Region	Issue	Solution
Banning	San Gorgonio Pass	Salinity	
Belltown	Perris Valley		
Cherry Valley	San Gorgonio Pass	Septic tank prohibition	Pending further investigation
Edgemont	Perris Valley	Water supply infrastructure	
Enchanted Heights	Perris Valley	Septic tank prohibition	Installed sewer
Green Acres	San Gorgonio Pass	Septic tank prohibition	Sewer installed
Home Gardens	Perris Valley	Contaminated wells	
Homeland	Perris Valley		
Lake Elsinore	Perris Valley	TMDL	
Lake View	Perris Valley		
Lakeland Village	Perris Valley	Septic flows	

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Quail Valley	Perris Valley	Septic tank prohibition	Seeking funding
Romoland	Perris Valley		
Rubidoux	Perris Valley		
San Gorgonio Pass	San Gorgonio Pass	Water supply/septic flows	
Sedco Hills	Perris Valley	Septic flows	
Sunnyslope	Perris Valley		
Orange County			
Community	Region	Issue	Solution
Anaheim	Orange		
Anaheim	Orange		
Garden Grove	Orange		
Santa Ana, City of	Orange	Water quality	
Westminster	Orange		

Regions

Riverside County

The San Gorgonio Pass area is located at the northeastern end of the SARW. The area is marked by the San Gorgonio Peak on the north end, and the San Jacinto Mountains to the south. It covers an area of approximately 260 square miles with a total population estimated at 83,000 people, according to 2010 census data. There are four incorporated cities in the Pass: Beaumont, Banning, Calimesa, and Yucaipa. There are also several unincorporated communities in the area: Cherry Valley, Banning Bench, Whitewater, and parts of Moreno Valley, which is an incorporated city. This area is served by several special districts: Yucaipa Valley Water District, the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District, the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency, and privately-held Western Heights Water Company. During OWOW 2.0 outreach, numerous contacts were made with local public agencies and residents in this area.

Beaumont - Cherry Valley

Cherry Valley is located between the cities of Beaumont and Calimesa and is a Census Designated Place (CDP), which is a concentration of population identified by the U.S. Census Bureau for statistical purposes. The community is largely rural with many residents maintaining livestock on their properties. The area relies primarily on septic tanks for wastewater disposal. Cherry Valley, along with the City of Beaumont and portions of Calimesa and other nearby areas, rely on groundwater wells for drinking water. Nitrate levels in these communities often exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level with leaching septic systems considered to be the primary cause (see Riverside County Ordinance No. 871).

There is a fundamental disagreement on the source of the elevated nitrate levels in the Beaumont Basin. To address nitrate levels within its jurisdiction, the City of Beaumont applied for funding through the DWSRF to address failing septic tanks in three trailer park areas. Funding would be used to remove the septic tanks and install a wastewater collection system. The challenge that faced the City is that Census Tract data did not show the project area as a DAC. In order to demonstrate DAC status, an income survey has to be conducted by the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC). The City commissioned the survey, and extensive outreach in Spanish and English was conducted to help residents understand the proposed project and its benefits. To obtain a high rate of survey participation, many one-on-one meetings were conducted. Additionally, residents were educated on how the failing septic tanks affect their community, the region, and the watershed.

Enchanted Heights, Perris

Half of the Enchanted Heights community lies within the City of Perris and in the other half in unincorporated Riverside County. For many years, hundreds of community residents experienced septic tank failures; the solution for this issue was determined to be a sewer system. Realizing that most projects of this nature and scope require a regional approach to be successful, the City of Perris, the County of Riverside, and the Eastern Municipal Water District applied for funding from two state agencies: the CDPH and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The funding sought was a DAC set-aside. As a condition for funding, Right of Entry signatures had to be obtained for each property, so the project proponents hired a bilingual consultant to work with the residents. Through extensive outreach efforts, 95 percent of the residents signed the form, and the project received national, state, and local recognition for the outreach campaign. The 3-year, \$15 million project is expected to be complete in late 2013.

Quail Valley, Meniffee

Quail Valley is a DAC community located in the City of Meniffee. A significant problem in this community is failing septic tanks. In 2007, the SARWQCB promulgated a septic prohibition after there were widespread failures. Several public hearings were held and the SARWQCB Basin Plan was amended to include a septic prohibition in Quail Valley. But even years after its establishment, many residents of the area were not aware that such a prohibition had been enacted.

When outreach work was conducted in May 2009, some residents expressed reluctance to share information or their concerns. To establish trust, many one-on-one contacts were made by an outreach specialist in the community. A series of meetings were held at locations easily accessible to community members, and conducted in both English and Spanish to convey critical information. In 2010, the nonprofit Quail Valley Environmental Coalition was created with the mission

to “advance the protection of the valley’s potable water supply and promote public health...through outreach, advocacy, and environmental stewardship.”

The Coalition, in cooperation with the area’s potable water service provider Eastern Municipal Water District, the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, the cities of Menifee and Canyon Lake, and Riverside County, was successful in recently obtaining a \$1.92 million grant in Proposition 84 funding for a project to help bring a modernized sewer system to the community. Additional sources of funding are continuing to be sought, but the outcome of these efforts is expected to be a sewer infrastructure that can help protect the entire region from public health risks caused by leaking septic systems.

Gavilan Hills

The Gavilan Hills community is located near Lake Matthews in western Riverside County. The community has had significant septic tank failures, but because of its isolated location, the problem is largely hidden. A site visit revealed the resident composition of this community has changed considerably in recent years. Formerly made up mostly of retired couples, the community is now experiencing an influx of young families that is jeopardizing the capacity of the existing septic tank systems. It is not unusual to see sewage water flowing from homes during a site visit. Discussions with the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health indicate that there were two recent septic tank failures, with one failed septic system regularly discharging raw sewage into a public street. There is ongoing discussion for new home development in the area which would bring sewer services to the area, but with the ongoing economic downturn, it remains a conceptual solution only.

Sedco Hills, Lake Elsinore

Sedco Hills is a community located within the City of Lake Elsinore. The area has a number of mobile homes, all of which rely on septic tanks for their wastewater removal. It has very little infrastructure and some streets are unpaved. A proposed subdivision that calls for 500 new homes could help the community become connected to a sewage treatment system. The estimated cost for the proposed water/wastewater improvement project is \$12 million. The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District has applied to CDPH for funding, which includes septic tank removal.

Lakeland Village, Lake Elsinore

Lakeland Village is located on the western shore of Lake Elsinore. The area has a large mobile home community and partial sewer system. There are several unimproved neighborhoods on the east side of Elsinore Mountain and just west of the trailer parks. The downslope of these trailer park subdivisions could contribute to septic run-off, which could threaten the quality of the lake.

Home Gardens, Corona

Home Gardens is a CDP / DAC located in Western Riverside County. The area is very small with a primarily Hispanic population according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The residents rely on the Home Gardens County Water District for their water supply and use septic tanks for wastewater removal. The water district has recently partnered with the City of Corona Department of Water and Power (DWP) to rehabilitate an inactive, non-potable groundwater well within the Home Gardens Community. The project allows DWP to share its water treatment capabilities with the smaller, more economically challenged district, resulting in both communities reducing their reliance on imported water, and allowing the smaller community to access water at a reduced rate.

San Bernardino County

The San Bernardino Valley serves as the economic center of the County, housing 80 percent of the total population of the Inland Empire and featuring numerous economic, cultural, and recreational resources. The Valley is also a major transportation hub for the international goods movement, but there are economic challenges in that market sector as well. The City of San Bernardino, with a population of 213,012, is considered largely disadvantaged according to the American Community Survey.

Rialto

The City of Rialto at the center of the Inland Empire is one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. The community is ethnically diverse, with a population near 100,000 residents. An invisible threat to the local water supply is water quality. The former B.F. Goodrich site in the city has been identified by the EPA as a source of perchlorate contamination. The area was originally used by the U.S. Army as an ordnance storage facility, but since 1946, it has been a busy commercial area with tenants ranging from defense contractors to fireworks manufacturers, and other businesses that used perchlorate salts and solvents in their manufacturing processes and product development. After a lengthy legal process, the EPA, the SWRCB, and the SARWQCB settled with all the responsible parties and groundwater site cleanups have started.

As part of that cleanup effort, West Valley Water District is building a bioremediation water treatment plant, which will address the perchlorate contamination; it is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2013.

Muscoy

The community of Muscoy is a CDP located near the City of San Bernardino. Initially laid out in the 1920s as homestead sites for a rural lifestyle, the community is now home to a sizable Latino population. Homeowners are also shareholders in the Muscoy Mutual Water Company, which owns and operates several groundwater wells that provide the community's drinking water.

During discussion with residents, the Muscoy Concerned Citizens group expressed concern about potential flood effects during Southern California's rainy season. The community is flanked by Lytle Creek on its western edge. While the creek is dry most of the year, it can flood during heavy rainfall. At a recent meeting with the Water Company, some of its Board members agreed with the Muscoy Concerned Citizens about their flooding concerns and potential impacts to the water infrastructure.

Los Angeles County

Chino Valley is at the west edge of the watershed where the watershed's boundary crosses into Los Angeles County. The Chino Valley is largely agricultural with several dairies that support the economy. From 1950 through 1980, the area was an economic center; however, over the years the area has undergone rapid change and has become much more urbanized. Opportunities exist for collaboration and partnership with local water suppliers to ascertain community residents' concerns.

Pomona

Pomona, the seventh largest city in Los Angeles County, is located between the Inland Empire and the San Gabriel Valley. The city population is approximately 149,058 residents, declining slightly from the 2010 Census. According to the data, the City includes a number of Census Tracts that do not reflect them as DACs. During outreach in this area, interviews were held with water suppliers and cities to determine the area's challenges. The Monte Vista Water District, which adjoins the City of Pomona to the east, has expressed interest in providing more recycled water to DAC residents within their service area.

Orange County

Orange County lies in the coastal plain of the watershed and is home to over 3 million people and a vibrant recreational economy. The 'Southern California lifestyle' is embodied in Orange County with many master-planned communities and a wide array of amenities that make the area a very desirable place to live. However, such affluence can often obscure the DACs in the county. Some of the water supply and water quality issues those areas face are seawater intrusion, increased demand, and the rising cost for imported water supplies. Local governments in the county continue to develop regional management strategies to help preserve, protect, and enhance coastal resources and address impacts to surface water.

Santa Ana

The Barrio Logan in the City of Santa Ana's historic corridor consists of a number of small bungalows creating a small, tight-knit community adjacent to Interstate 5. The neighborhood has experienced changes over the years, with residents struggling to preserve the original features of this historic neighborhood.

Discussions were held with residents to learn about concerns related to water and the environment. Flooding from stormwater runoff was a major concern.

Huntington Beach

Huntington Beach is near the Santa Ana River estuary, and is 31 square miles in area. It has a large population with 189,707 residents, and the nearby estuary is often used as a subsistence fishery by local fishermen. Contaminated fish in the estuary could be a potential issue as nearby Palos Verde Shelf is an EPA-designated Superfund site. The U.S. Department of Commerce and the EPA has launched an outreach program to alert fisherman about the potential effects of consuming contaminated fish from this area.

DAC Challenges and Opportunities

The SARW is rich in diversity and, as like many arid regions in the West, faces numerous water and related resources challenges. There are distinct regional differences throughout the watershed with much variability due to economic factors. Numerous economic resources are concentrated along the Orange County coast, and many natural resources are concentrated at the San Bernardino Mountains and its headwaters. The Santa Ana River is the watershed's unifying element.

Environmental justice, as defined by the EPA, is “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” With coordinated efforts by local, state and federal governments, such justice can be achieved in communities throughout the SARW, ensuring that all residents can enjoy the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

As part of SAWPA's OWOW process, regional experts representing various technical disciplines (also known as Pillars) – ranging from water supply and quality to climate change and environmental justice – helped identify numerous opportunities to support the Plan. The Disadvantaged Community Pillar has made serious attempts to communicate with DACs within its service area; however, more needs to be done.

One of the challenges encountered was identifying DACs, as they are not always conventional residential areas. For example, a unique DAC is Patton State Hospital in the City of San Bernardino. This site, a major forensic mental hospital operated by the state, is considered to be 100% DAC, but does not necessarily have water resources issues similar to that of other DAC communities.

A diversity of cultures and ethnicities may exist in a single community so outreach efforts need to be dynamic and adaptable (and sometimes multi-lingual) to clearly communicate the impacts of a project while being sensitive to the traditions, customs and way of life unique to each society.

Plus, these small and/or disadvantaged communities are often located in sparsely populated, rural areas and cannot provide the economies of scale necessary to build and maintain adequate water and wastewater systems.

Additionally, many of these communities lack the resources and in-house expertise necessary to apply for grants and loans to help make wastewater projects more feasible, and often do not have the technical expertise to determine the best project alternative to appropriately plan and manage long-term operations and maintenance needs.

Thus, as work continues on implementation efforts within OWOW 2.0, best practices to help with DAC identification and assessments, and stakeholder engagement will be critical.

DACs also face many of the same challenges as their neighboring communities, including:

- a. Limited funding/funding sources
- b. High infrastructure costs
- c. Poor water quality
- d. Limited water supplies
- e. Failing septic systems/undersized treatment facilities
- f. Increasing demands on existing water resources
- g. Flooding or drought
- h. Inadequate community support
- i. Limited project communication

Also, many DACs use groundwater as a primary source of drinking water. Figure 2 depicts the various groundwater contaminant plumes (volatile organic compounds (VOC), perchlorate, and VOC and perchlorate) in or near the watershed's DACs and Tribal lands.

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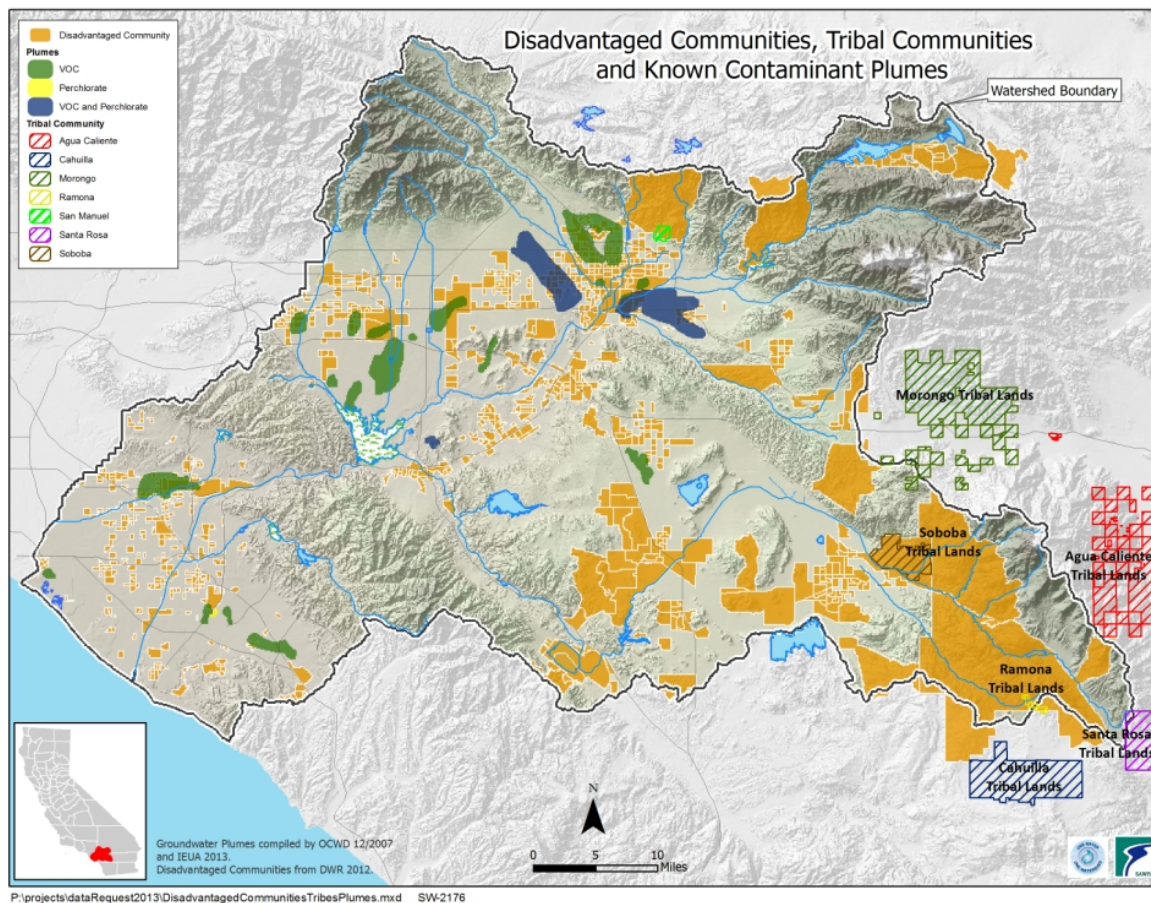


Figure 2: Known Contaminant Plumes Impacting DACs and Tribal Lands

Future DAC Support and Implementation

The importance of an early engagement and effective outreach with DACs cannot be overstated. More work and coordination is needed to bring water and related resources issues to the attention of SAWPA and its member agencies. Also, additional coordination is needed with regulating agencies like the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and EPA to help isolate issues that are noted during community outreach and to find meaningful solutions.

Two water agencies interested in better serving DACs in their service areas have proposed projects under SAWPA's Prop 84, Round 2 call for projects. During that process all proposals went before a Project Selection Committee and were thoroughly reviewed against a set of five criteria to meet the Statewide Priorities. The project review criteria was: 1) Improve Water Reliability and Reduce Reliance on Imported Water; 2) Improve Water Quality and Salt Balance; 3) Manage Flood Waters through Preservation and Restoration of Natural

Hydrology; 4) Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Water Management Activities; and 5) Cost Effectiveness. The two projects met SAWPA's IRWM goals and objectives by promoting sustainable water solutions.

These two proposals were scored and ranked and recommended for funding in OWOW's DAC water and energy portfolio. The OWOW plan calls for SARW inhabitants and water purveyors to recognize the linkage between stormwater management and local water supply, land use and water quality, and the requirement to have reliable water supplies in the future for a growing population with finite water resources. It is only through a view of the SARW as an integrated system that SAWPA can be successful and help its member agencies, DACs, Tribes and communities within the watershed to develop system operational efficiency. The two DAC projects help achieve that objective, and will have significant value-added benefits, not only for the DACs involved but the surrounding communities and water agencies that work with them.

Quail Valley Subarea 9 Phase 1 Sewer System is a \$5.6 million project that will replace approximately 149 failing individual septic systems. These failing systems cause septic effluent to run through the community and downstream to Canyon Lake. Canyon Lake has been listed as an impaired water body by the federal government, due to elevated levels of nitrates, phosphorus and pathogens. In wet weather conditions especially, children walk through the surface effluent on their way to school. However, Canyon Lake is also a recreational and potable water supply reservoir for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. The project will provide a reliable water supply, promote sustainable water solutions, and ensure high quality water for all users by removing a source of nutrients and pathogens from the area.

The Corona/Home Gardens Well Rehabilitation and Multi-jurisdictional Water Transmission Line Project is the second DAC project awarded funding in SAWPA's Prop 84 Round 2. This \$4.6 million project is a synergistic effort by the City of Corona Department of Water and Power and Home Gardens County Water District. Combining resources, these two water agencies will rehab an area groundwater well and its associated distribution system while installing an advanced water treatment system that will remove high nitrate levels in the Home Gardens area groundwater. The treated water will be blended to meet EPA water quality standards and reduce the DAC's reliance on imported water. It will also improve area water reliability. The multi-jurisdictional approach leverages available resources and provides a water resources solution.

Best Practices for DAC Engagement and Participation

At times, community outreach is seen as a cursory notification for an upcoming event. For many water agencies, it may be conducted by sending a billing notice

with an insert, or using an email blast or a website posting. However, these outreach methods should be modified to effectively work with DACs. It may be possible that English is not a DAC population's first language, and there may also be substantial cultural differences that may affect message reception. To effectively communicate the impact of a potential project, water and other public service agencies should create diverse lines of communication with their stakeholders and customers.

A participatory planning process - one in which all the stakeholders are involved - is often the most effective and inclusive way to work with DAC residents. This process provides community ownership and support; information about community history, politics, and past mistakes; and respect and a voice for everyone. It also takes time, care, mutual respect, and commitment. To conduct such a process well, stakeholders must be identified, and communication techniques must be used that are specifically designed to reach them. Also, the process must be maintained over time, so momentum will not be lost. By implementing a planning process that meets all these requirements, it is likely that SAWPA can conduct successful community interactions, one that truly works and meets the DACs' unique needs.

DAC Communications

Water resources planners typically assess DACs by reviewing Census tracts and mining for pertinent information for Median Household Income (MHI) data. As a working approach, it is a necessary first step. It can be more beneficial, however, through direct contact with DAC communities, especially in proposed water project areas. It is also advantageous to meet with affected DAC residents to pinpoint problems they may be experiencing, and discuss potential solutions.

When conducting DAC outreach in the SARW, one-on-one conversations with DAC residents can be effective. This outreach may also consist of bilingual discussions and site visits to affected communities to develop an understanding about their water resources issues. In order to effectively communicate with DAC residents, the DAC Pillar divided the watershed into sub-regions and ascertained what these residents saw accomplished in this update process. Use of Spanish informational material was effective, and other languages like Vietnamese could be helpful too.

If DAC residents understand the impacts of proposed project on their lifestyles and livelihoods, it is likely that they will support it. The following are suggested Best Practices to Communicate with a DAC:

1. Residents rely on word of mouth as their primary communication mode; one-on-one communication is the best form of outreach to DACs.

2. Walk around the community. Once the ice is broken, it is easier to speak with the residents and introduce the proposed project as a solution.
3. Provide simple sketches or drawings showing the proposed project. Avoid technical jargon, charts, and graphs.
4. Convey a helpful mannerism when speaking with the residents.
5. Ask the residents what water resources issues they face.
6. If necessary, translate materials into the native language of the majority of the residents, and have outreach workers who are multi-lingual.
7. Start with small meetings in neighborhood facilities to ensure easy accessibility to the residents.
8. Be accessible to residents; give them reliable contact information for future questions. Provide translators if needed.
9. If residents need to sign documents (for permission to access their properties), ensure the documents are properly translated into the language they are most comfortable with so there is informed consent.
10. Be sensitive to minority populations.
11. Be creative in finding ways of communicating with the residents.

Rural and disadvantaged communities can gain multiple benefits when they have achieved a safe, reliable, and affordable small community drinking water and wastewater systems. First and foremost, is the protection of public health, safety, and the environment. Additionally, it has been documented that an increased investment in public sector drinking water and wastewater infrastructure brings higher private sector profits in the community, spurs additional private investment in plant and equipment, and improves growth in private sector labor productivity.

Through direct assistance to DAC drinking water and wastewater treatment facility managers, many systems can achieve compliance with health and safety regulations. Or the solution may lie in consolidating with adjacent systems so as to gain an economy of scale that assures fiscal sustainability. Either way, the goal of a safe, reliable, and sustainable water system is essential to securing protection to the public health, economy, and environment of California's rural and disadvantaged communities.

The chart below offers a step-by-step process to interacting with and providing outreach to DACs. These steps, combined with the Best Practices listed above, can result in successful project benefits provided to these diverse communities.

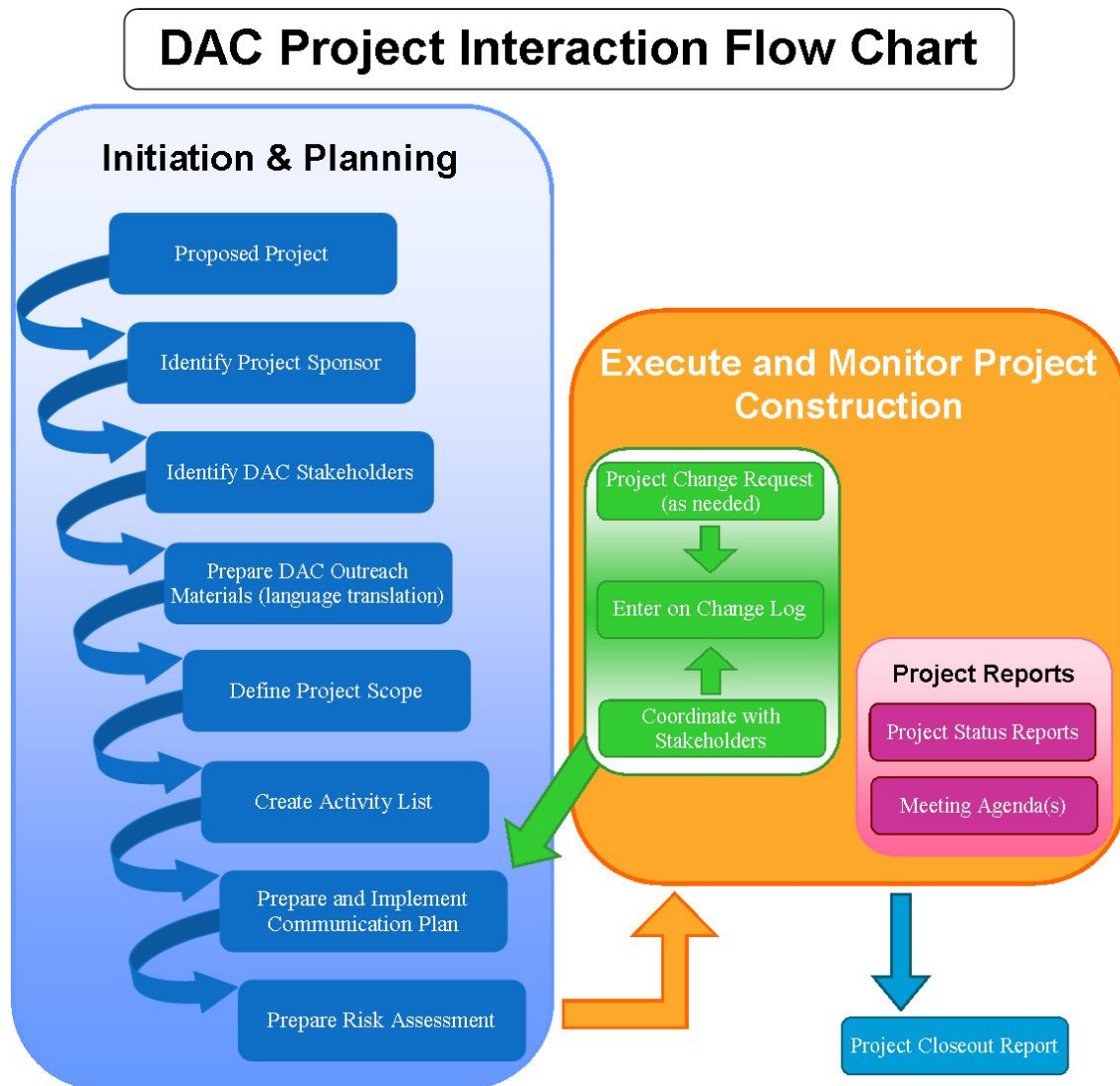


Figure 3: Project Activities Related to Disadvantaged Communities

Native American Indian Tribes

Definitions

Federally Recognized Tribe: As identified in CFR Section 900.6 an Indian Tribe “means any Indian tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, including pueblos, Rancherias, colonies and any Alaska Native Village, or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.”

Non-Federally Recognized Tribe: According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, a non-recognized tribe has no relationship with the United States. Congress, not the Department of the Interior, has the final word as to whether a tribe should be federally recognized and whether a non-recognized tribe may nevertheless receive certain federal benefits.

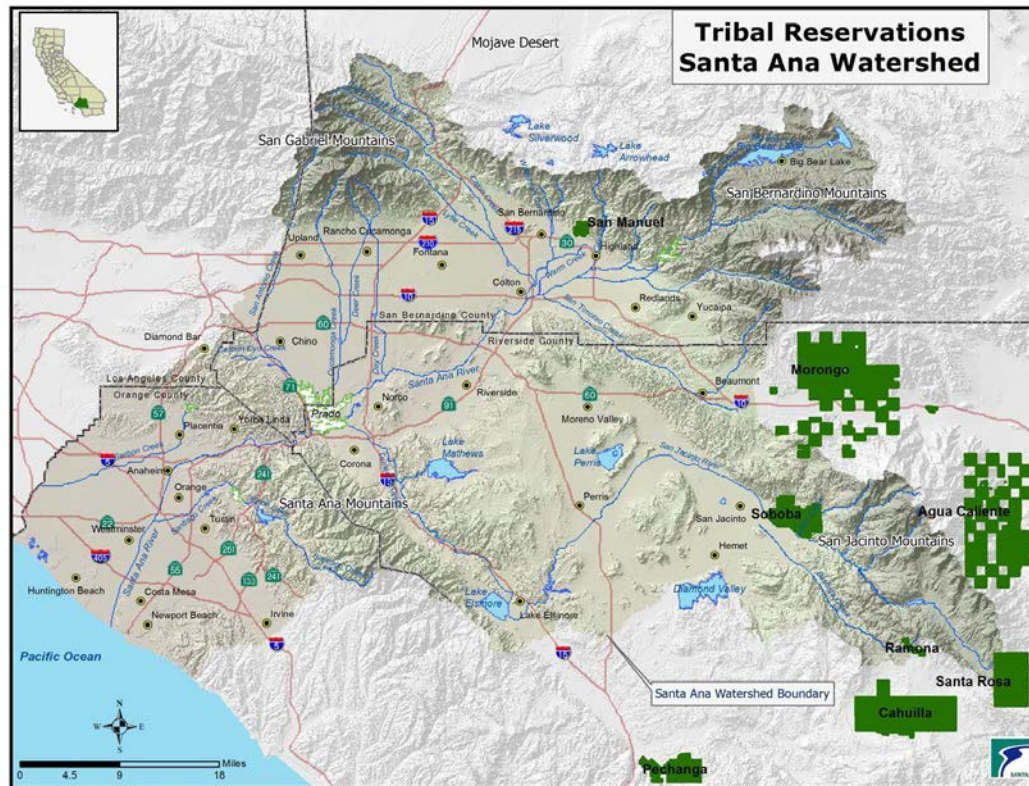


Figure 4: Santa Ana Watershed Tribal Reservations

Methodology for Assessing the Tribes

The OWOW 2.0 Plan update process ensures Tribes have a voice and provides a means for these cultures to be equal and active participants with other stakeholders, encouraging early participation in the actions taken within the watershed that could impact them. The region's Tribes believe that the past is the foundation of their future. To ensure the culture and traditions of these Tribes are embraced in the process, it is important to provide a means to educate the stakeholders early on, as well. As part of the outreach process, the four Santa Ana Watershed Tribes were contacted, although not all provided input to this document. Outreach was extended to neighboring Tribes, as well. Tribal information was gathered from several sources including direct outreach to tribal leadership, personal interviews, web research, documentation review, and publicly available information.

Santa Ana River Watershed Tribes

The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, the San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians, the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, and the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians reside within the SARW boundary. Just outside the boundary are the communities of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, the Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians. For purposes of this study, contact was made with all these Tribes.

Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians

The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians is a federally recognized Indian Tribe that resides on 3,172 acres of land at the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains in Riverside County. The reservation has deep canyons and rolling hills, ranging from 1,600 feet above sea level beginning at the San Jacinto River, which borders the Reservation's western boundary, to about 2,600 feet in the northeastern and southern portions. The Tribe has a current enrollment of approximately 1,200 tribal members who are governed by a five-member elected tribal council. The Soboba's have a rich and diverse history as members come from both Cahuilla and Luiseno ancestry. The Soboba people have farmed land that was irrigated from surface water from the San Jacinto River, two of its tributary streams, Poppet and Indian Creeks, and from more than forty perennial springs.

San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, California. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys, and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 when the Tribe was recognized as a sovereign

nation with the right of self-government. The Tribe is actively seeking to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services, and promoting social, economic, and cultural development.

Morongo Band of Mission Indians

The community of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, a federally recognized Indian Tribe, is set at the foot of the San Gorgonio and San Jacinto Mountains and spans more than 35,000 acres. The Morongo Reservation was one of nine small reservations set aside in 1865; today, it hosts one of the largest tribal gaming facilities in the nation. Employing more than 3,000 people, the Tribe has become the largest private sector employer in the Banning-Beaumont region and is a major contributor to the Coachella Valley economy. The Tribe is also actively working with government and community leaders to explore the best paths of future development and planning that will yield a better quality of life for its residents.

Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians

The Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians, a federally recognized tribe, is headquartered in Riverside County, between Palm Springs and Anza, and occupies 11,021 acres of land. The Reservation is composed of four non-contiguous parcels, with the largest being located in the area of *Sew'ia*, or New Santa Rosa (Vandeventer Flat) where residents of the Reservation reside. The three remaining parcels, which include Toro Peak where the Tribe operates a telecommunications relay station, are located east of the main parcel. Elevation ranges from 4,200 feet at *Sew'ia* to 8,700 feet at Toro Peak. Currently, there are 110 recognized Tribal Members (18 and over); approximately 70 individuals live on the Reservation. The people of *Sew'ia* are one of eight Cahuilla Bands, which include Cahuilla, Ramona, Los Coyotes, Torres-Martinez, Augustine, Cabazon, Agua Caliente, and Morongo.

Tribal Challenges and Opportunities

Water is unique in the diversity and importance of the needs it satisfies. It is one of the most plentiful substances, yet it is often considered precious because there is not always enough water of the right quality in the right place at the right time.

Water resources in the Santa Ana Watershed consist of local surface water and groundwater, imported surface water, and reclaimed water. In many cases, the water challenges Tribes encounter are no different than local, state, or federal challenges.

A decision to use water for a particular purpose can have far-reaching impacts which can affect not only state and local communities, but the tribal communities

as well. Early in the planning process, it is particularly important to include Tribes to ensure their possibly unique requirements may be recognized.

Listed below are potential water management issues on tribal lands:

- a. Groundwater overdraft
- b. Insufficient groundwater supply
- c. Growing water demands
- d. Habitat conservation planning requirements
- e. County groundwater ordinances (if applicable)
- f. Impact of neighboring communities
- g. Inadequate water recycling facilities
- h. Adverse impact of groundwater depletion on water quality
- i. Increased runoff from newly developed impervious surfaces
- j. High cost of imported water
- k. Chlorine sediments
- l. Inadequate flood protection infrastructure
- m. Tribal lands in flood inundation areas
- n. California Environmental Quality Act compliance

This list is only a small example of the potential water management challenges that face not only the Tribes in the Santa Ana Watershed, but many others throughout the state.

Future Tribal Support and Implementation

Similar to approaches with DACs, the importance of an early engagement and effective outreach with Tribes cannot be overstated. Though only four Tribes are within the SARW, they have important roles in their neighboring communities as well as the region's economy. All four have casino operations that bring tens of thousands of visitors to the area whose water needs must also be met.

Additionally, more work and coordination is needed to isolate water and related resources issues in these communities, and make SAWPA and its member agencies aware of requirements for unique Tribal activities. Consultation protocols with Tribes should be used by senior SAWPA and District staff. Improving coordination with regulating agencies like the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and EPA will also help characterize issues and solutions.

The Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians joined forces with Eastern Municipal Water District, Lake Hemet Municipal Water District, and the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs to propose a Wastewater Treatment Plan project. That proposal underwent the same screening listed in the DAC narrative and was also measured against the

5-point criteria. After review by the Project Selection Committee, it was ranked and prioritized and recommended for funding. The purpose and need for designing and constructing a \$15 million wastewater treatment plant on the Soboba Indian Reservation is two-fold. First and foremost, it will improve the health and welfare of Soboba tribal members. Secondly, it can improve the health and welfare of the San Jacinto & Hemet communities, and extend local water supplies by reclaiming previously unused low-quality water.

Under an historic agreement among the Tribe and two local water agencies – Eastern and Lake Hemet Municipal Water Districts – the partners will cooperatively restore and protect the health of the San Jacinto River groundwater basin, part of the SARW that provides valuable water resources to the region. The Soboba wastewater treatment plant will address much needed water and sewer improvements on the reservation, positively impacting tribal members for generations to come, and will improve the quality of life for non-Tribal citizens residing near the reservation.

Best Practices for Tribal Engagement and Participation

1. The three primary goals of tribal involvement are:
 - a. **Credibility.** An open and visible decision-making process accessible to all on an equal basis makes the planning process credible to groups with divergent points of view.
 - b. **Identifying Tribal Concerns and Values.** Because various groups have different points of view and values, they will evaluate a proposed action from different perspectives. Tribal involvement allows the planning team to understand the problems, issues, and possible solutions from the perspectives of the various interests.
 - c. **Developing a Consensus.** No single philosophy can guide the planning team's decisions. Consensus must be formed on an issue-by-issue basis. Tribal and public involvement provides a process for evolving each consensus. Consensus, then, allows the team to move forward and solve the problem.
2. Coordinating with partners: 'Early and often' coordination is essential as each partner may have a different impact on the overall proposed project.
3. Build trust one action at a time.
4. Maintain a visible project: A process that cannot be seen can lead to suspicion. Seeing is believing.

5. Speak the Tribe and public's language: Jargon and acronyms should be converted to plain language so people of all cultures, backgrounds and educational levels can understand.
6. Learn each Tribe's unique cultural practices and etiquette/manners: Each tribe is a unique and distinct cultural entity. Project staff should strive to cultivate sensitivity to and a working grasp of the unique cultural, historical, and political aspects of the specific Tribes with whom they will interact. When conducting interactions and communications with Tribes, ensure particular consideration is given to applying an understanding of cultural diversity and awareness, and be respectful of sovereignty. The following are examples of some of the cultural differences that may be encountered:
 - a. Prayers or Blessings before the beginning of meeting: When hosting a meeting, many Tribes will offer prayers or blessings at the initiation or conclusion of a meeting. Show respect for the Tribe's beliefs and practices through appropriate behavior.
 - b. English as a second language: For some Indians, especially the elders or more traditional tribal members, English is learned late in life. Be mindful of the fact that differences in English-speaking abilities can create communication problems, misunderstandings, or inaccurate expectations.
 - c. Humor: Be cautious about attempts to be humorous, particularly early in the relationship-building process. Humor sometimes does not translate well between different cultures and can occasionally lead to misunderstandings.
 - d. Being greeted with silence: Indians sometimes speak very little at meetings. Always assume they are listening.
 - e. Duration of the meeting: Generally, Indian people start meetings when everyone arrives and they finish when everyone has had a "say." While waiting for meetings to start, this is an opportunity to interact with tribal members.
 - f. Proper titles for Tribal Delegates: Tribal delegates are treated with respect and addressed by their proper titles. Finding out in advance the proper terms for addressing the leaders can be achieved by calling the specific tribal administrative offices.
 - g. Conflict or anger: When dealing with Indian Tribes and their representatives, consider the possibility that conflict or anger occasionally may be encountered, especially early in the relationship-building process. Displaying sensitivity, listening without becoming defensive, and perhaps showing common interest are some possible appropriate non-confrontational responses to manifested anger. Always avoid condescension.

- h. Cultural Baggage: Cultural expectations are best left outside the meeting room door. Doing so will help to make one more receptive to tribal conventions, even those that may not be completely understood. It also helps to facilitate a greater appreciation of the fact that Tribes are distinct cultural, legal, and sovereign entities and each would prefer to be treated as such; strive for awareness, sensitivity, and respect.
- 7. Take a proactive approach to working with tribal governments.
 - 8. Be creative.

The flow chart below also offers a step-by-step process to successfully engage Tribes in decision-making related to water resources programs.

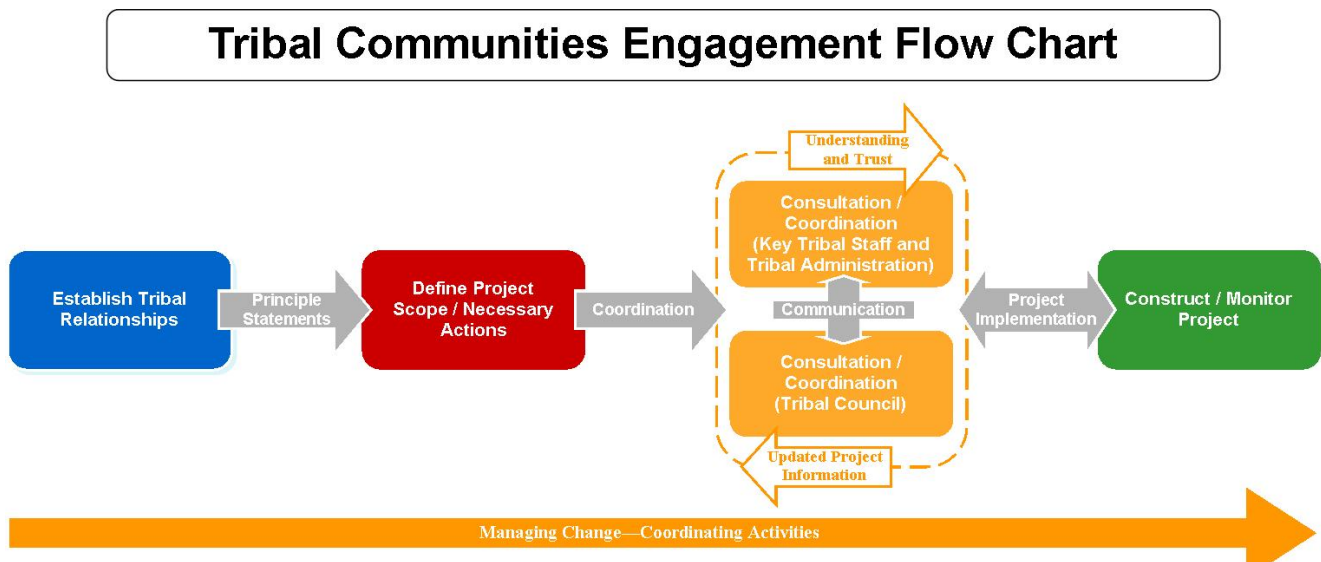


Figure 5: Tribal Engagement Process

Additional Information

Tribes, like DACs, may have significant water issues; however, their primary concerns are focused on sustaining water quality and quantification, via water rights. Water rights in California have a long and complicated history. The interplay between state water law and Tribal water rights is especially complex in California (DWR 2009 California Tribal Water Summit), but solutions are on the horizon. The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, one of the tribes in SAWPA's service area, recently resolved a long-standing water rights dispute with the Federal government and their geographic neighbors. In early January 2013, the Tribe codified a 2008 Congressional Act that awarded the Tribe funding support to resolve a 60-year water rights dispute with a neighboring water district and members of the San Jacinto River Watershed community. That resolution ensures

that the Soboba Tribe will have a secure water supply for the future, and also spurs economic development for the Band and its neighboring communities.

In May 2011, SAWPA's OWOW Government Alliance Pillar was formed and Tribal representation was requested from all four tribes in SAWPA's service area. The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians initially came to the Pillar meetings, but internal staff changes prevented their participation for a period of time. But the Soboba Band's involvement continues to this day through support of the Pillar's network and collaborative agency interaction.

Representation of Native American interests has also occurred at the Steering Committee level. Sworn in as a member of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors in 2012, James Ramos is the first Native American to be elected to the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors and the OWOW Steering Committee. Ramos, a tribal member from the San Manuel Band, now serves on the OWOW Steering Committee representing San Bernardino County (the largest county in the U.S.), ensuring the Tribe's water interests are adequately addressed and aligned with the County's long-term water and related resources planning vision. He also serves as the County's member agency representative on the Southern California Water Committee and as a delegate to the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District Advisory Commission on Water Policy and the Santa Ana River Policy Advisory Group.

For more information on Native American Tribes, the following websites are recommended for reviewing, although not limited to:

Indian Country Diaries, Today's Challenges:
<http://www.pbs.org/indiancountry/challenges/>

Museum of the American Indian: <http://nmai.si.edu/environment/>

U.S. Department of the Interior American Indians and Alaska Natives:
<http://www.doi.gov/tribes/index.cfm>

Overview of Disadvantaged Communities & Native American Indian Tribes
in the Santa Ana River Watershed – California
Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study

Table 3: Tribal Points of Contact
(as of February 15, 2013)

Tribal Chairperson	Tribal Water Department
<p>Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Honorable Jeff L. Grubbe Chairman 5401 Dinah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA 92264 Phone: 760-699-6800 Fax: 760-699-6800 lfregozo@aguacaliente-nsn.gov</p>	<p>Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Margaret Park Director of Planning and Natural Resources 5401 Dinah Shore Drive Palm Springs, CA 92264 Phone: 760-699-6800 Fax: 760-699-6822 mpark@aguacaliente-nsn.gov</p>
<p>Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians Honorable Luther Salgado, Sr. Spokesperson P.O. Box 391760 Anza, CA 92539-1760 Phone: 951-763-5549 Fax: 951-763-2808 tribalcouncil@cahuilla.net</p>	<p>Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians Luther Salgado Jr. Water Quality Specialist P.O. Box 391760 Anza, CA 92539-1760 Phone: 951-763-2631 Fax: 951-763-2808 waterquality@cahuilla.net</p>
<p>Morongo Band of Mission Indians Honorable Robert Martin Chairman 12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA 92220 Phone: 951-849-4697 Fax: 951-849-4425 rmartin@morongo-nsn.gov</p>	<p>Morongo Band of Mission Indians John Covington Water Resources Manager 12700 Pumarra Road Banning, CA 92220 Phone: 951-849-4697 Fax: 951-849-4425 jcovington@morongo-nsn.gov</p>
<p>Pechanga Band of Mission Indians Honorable Mark A. Macarro Chairman P.O. Box 1477 Temecula, CA 92593 Phone: 951-676-2768 Fax: 951-695-1778 tribaladmin@pechangatribes.com</p>	<p>Pechanga Band of Mission Indians John Mora Director of Water Systems P.O. Box 1477 Temecula, CA 92593 Phone: 951-676-2768 Fax: 951-695-1778 jmora@pechanga-nsn.gov</p>

Overview of Disadvantaged Communities & Native American Indian Tribes
in the Santa Ana River Watershed – California
Santa Ana Watershed Basin Study

Tribal Chairperson	Tribal Water Department
<p>Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians Honorable Joseph Hamilton Chairman P.O. Box 391372 Anza, CA 92539 Phone: 951-763-4105 Fax: 951-763-4325 jhamilton@ramonatribe.com</p>	<p>Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians Manuel Hamilton Vice Chairman P.O. Box 391372 Anza, CA 92539 Phone: 951-763-4105 Fax: 951-763-4325 mhamilton@ramonatribe.com</p>
<p>San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Honorable Carla Rodriguez Chairwoman 26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA 92346 Phone: 909-864-8933 Fax: 909-864-3370 ctobin@sanmanuel-nsn.gov</p>	<p>San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Todd Sudmeier Public Works Division Manager 26569 Community Center Drive Highland, CA 92346 Phone: 909-425-3590 Fax: 909-864-3370 not available</p>
<p>Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians Honorable John Marcus Chairman 65200 Highway 74 Mountain Center, CA 92561 P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA 92539 Phone: 951-659-2700 Fax: 951-659-2228 jmarcus@santarosacahuilla-nsn.gov</p>	<p>Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians Steven Estrada 65200 Highway 74 Mountain Center, CA 92561 P.O. Box 391820 Anza, CA 92539 Phone: 951-659-2700 Fax: 951-659-2228 sestrada@santarosacahuilla-nsn.gov</p>
<p>Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Honorable Rosemary Morillo Chairwoman P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA 92581 Phone: 951-654-2765 x. 4115 Fax: 951-654-4198 dkitchen@soboba-nsn.gov</p>	<p>Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians Erica Helms-Schenk Environmental Director P.O. Box 487 San Jacinto, CA 92581 Phone: 951-654-2765 x. 4115 Fax: 951-654-4198 ehelms@soboba-nsn.gov</p>

Conclusion

This report's focus has been on DAC and Tribes within the Santa Ana River Watershed, their concerns, and the emphasis needed by the water sector as it engages these two very distinct and different entities. DACs are economically unique, as defined by the state, and reside in both urban and rural community settings. Tribal communities are sovereign nations and must be respected for that difference. They reside on reservations, whose lands set aside in perpetuity.

Engaging DACs and Tribes in water and related resources planning through effective outreach is good for both the community and the water sector itself. There are distinct differences due to cultural and historic context; however, the two groups have more in common. Both need their voices heard during proposed project development.

Today, DACs and Tribes face critical and serious water and related resources challenges, such as failing septic systems, isolation, language barriers, flood risk, and lack of funding and or resources to name a few. It is imperative that the water sector and its key stakeholders recognize proposed DAC and Tribe water project needs, and engage these communities early in the process. The OWOW 2.0 Plan process recognized the various funding needs for DACs and Tribes, and the Federal and State funding programs available to them.

Water sector outreach and engagement should include speaking with DAC residents, listening to their issues, attending Tribal Council meetings, participating on DAC and or Tribal-related committees, and conducting continuous networking. These actions could lead to consensus-based development and implementation project solutions for these groups, and the sooner that approach is under taken by the water sector, the better for everyone within the SARW.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Environmental Justice:

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WorldFish.org Subsistence Fishing Fact Card:

http://www.worldfish.org/GCI/gci_assets_moz/Fact%20Card%20-%20Subsistence%20Fishing.pdf

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San Manuel Reservation: <http://www.sanmanuel-nsn.gov>

Santa Rosa Reservation: <http://www.santarosacahuilla-nsn.gov>

Soboba Reservation: <http://www.soboba-nsn.gov>